

HONORING THE LIFE OF JACK HALL

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Jack Hall, who passed away on August 20, 2014 at the age of 57 after a short battle with cancer. Jack made a positive difference in the lives of countless individuals, and he will undoubtedly be missed by many.

In 1957, Jack was born to Bill and Maureen in Cork, Ireland. When Jack was a year old, his family immigrated to the United States. After living in Los Angeles and Firebaugh, Jack's family settled in Fresno, California where he graduated from Bullard High School in 1975.

After graduating from high school, Jack worked with his father for a farming operation in Firebaugh. He then worked at an accountancy firm before serving as a fiscal analyst for the State Center Community College District. In 1999, Jack received his Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from California State University, Fresno.

Jack's career in politics began in 2000 when he was hired to serve as the Director of the Central Valley and Agricultural Liaison for Governor Gray Davis. During his tenure with the Governor's office, Jack helped to create the "Buy California" marketing program which later became known as the "Californian Grown" initiative.

When Governor Davis left office, Jack served as my first District Director. During his time, he was instrumental in establishing the offices in California's 20th Congressional District. He was an exemplary employee who truly cared about the San Joaquin Valley and our entire nation.

Upon his departure from my office, Jack served as the Southern California Regional Coordinator for the Alliance for a Better California. In addition, he served as the Statewide Political Director for the California Faculty Association. Jack also served on the Big Fresno Fair board, and he created his own firm, Central Valley Strategies.

In January 2010, Jack began working as a regional Director of Governmental Affairs for Comcast Cable. He served as Chairman of the Fresno Chamber of Commerce. Jack was well respected by community leaders, his colleagues, and many friends.

More important than his career in politics, Jack's family meant everything to him. He was a devoted husband to his wife, Christina, with whom he had two children: Liam and Rachel. He was a dedicated father who always took the time to attend his children's athletic events from their days in youth leagues through their collegiate careers. He is survived by his wife and children, as well as his mother, Maureen, his siblings: Patricia, Anne, Kevin, Tom, Bill, and Vince, and many loving nieces, nephews, cousins, and in-laws.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House Representatives to pay tribute to the life of Jack Hall. His service to our community and fun-loving spirit will always be remembered.

GEORGIA INDUSTRIES FOR THE BLIND

HON. AUSTIN SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, as we prepare to observe National Disability Employment Month this October, I am honored to recognize Georgia Industries for the Blind (GIB). GIB works in partnership with the Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency to generate employment opportunities throughout Georgia in manufacturing and services for people who are blind. It is appropriate, at this time to reflect on and celebrate their achievements.

There remains a significant gap in employment for those with disabilities. Today, nearly seventy percent of workforce-eligible blind individuals remain unemployed.

GIB has helped bridge the employment gap for blind individuals in Georgia since it began in 1949 by providing good jobs in manufacturing and service industries. They currently have four centers in Georgia that employ nearly 200 people, most of whom are blind, and generate over \$12 million in annual sales. Furthermore, GIB was presented with the Commissioner's Cup Safety Award for 2013, a distinction considered to be the top workplace safety award in the State of Georgia.

GIB demonstrates the importance of having an inclusive workforce. Their business success is not only measured in sales and awards, but also in changed lives by affording opportunities to those with disabilities. It is important for us to raise awareness regarding disability employment and the inherent value that employing those with disabilities brings to the workplace.

Mr. Speaker, please join me, on behalf of Georgia's Eighth Congressional District, in recognizing GIB for its strong work and contributions to Georgia.

WISHING THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA
A HAPPY DOUBLE TEN**HON. MIKE QUIGLEY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Republic of China, commonly called Taiwan, on its upcoming National Day of the Republic of China on October 10, 2014.

This year marks the 35th anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act, which has facilitated a special relationship between the United States and Taiwan. Since 1979, we have enjoyed close security cooperation, culture exchange and trade flows. The economies of the U.S. and Taiwan are tightly linked, and Taiwan has been an important trading partner to the United States.

I would also like to recognize the accomplishments of President Ma Ying-jeou in contributing to peace and security in the region. During his presidency, Taiwan and Mainland China have had constructive dialogue between their leaders. I hope that this dialogue will continue.

As a member of the Taiwan Caucus, I have had the opportunity to learn much more about

the amazing country that is Taiwan. As a beacon of freedom and democracy in the global community, I look forward to continuing to work with Taiwan to strengthen our friendship and alliance.

I wish the people of Taiwan a happy Double Ten, and I yield back the balance of my time.

IN SUPPORT OF THE NATIONAL
PARENTS CORPS ACT OF 2014**HON. JOHN LEWIS**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. LEWIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reintroduce the National Parents Corps Act of 2014. I am proud to author this legislation which intends to combat youth violence and substance abuse in our country's schools.

The National Parents Corps Act aims to continue the successful National Parents Corps program first initiated in 2003. The bill revitalizes a program which trains parent leaders to collaborate with schools, students, and the community in order to proactively work together in deterring and reducing alcohol and drug abuse, bullying, gang involvement, and other dangerous activities.

The program targets middle school students and creates a collaborative network to recognize and respond to dangerous trends in the most susceptible school-age population—middle school. Professionally-trained parent leaders will build critical networks between students, parents, teachers, administrators, local law enforcement, and the community. They will develop prevention programs, share scientific research, best practices, and create spaces of open dialogue and targeted action.

Mr. Speaker, I have always stood for investing in children and for peaceful communities, which is why I am reintroducing this legislation. No child should live his or her life in fear or marked by drugs and violence. This bill responds to a clear need, with a targeted and effective approach, and I hope all of my colleagues will join this common-sense effort to support healthy, safe, schools.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
TO JAZZ OF GERI ALLEN**HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, jazz artist Geri Allen will be honored this year by the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation (CBCF) at the Jazz Forum and Concert during the 44th Annual Legislative Conference (ALC). Ms. Allen is an internationally renowned pianist, composer, and educator, who will also be performing at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center, in Washington, D.C. Ms. Allen will receive the 2014 CBCF ALC Jazz Legacy Award for her contributions to jazz and world culture.

Geri Allen was born on June 12, 1957 in Pontiac, Michigan, but she was raised in Detroit, where she attended Detroit public schools. Her early music education came at Cass Technical High School in Detroit, and